

The President's Radio Address

January 19, 2002

Good morning. On Monday, communities across America will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Laura will visit Atlanta to commemorate the day in Dr. King's hometown. I will welcome Dr. King's family to the White House. This year's observance is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Dr. King and honor the principles for which he lived and died.

Americans can proudly say that we have overcome the institutionalized bigotry that Dr. King fought. Now our challenge is to make sure that every child has a fair chance to succeed in life. That is why education is the great civil rights issue of our time.

So my administration worked with Republicans and Democrats to enact into law the most far-reaching educational reform in a generation. We are insisting on high standards for all our children. We're putting a new emphasis on reading as the first step toward achievement. We're offering teachers new training, and States and localities new flexibility. And we're going to measure and test how everyone is doing in our new accountability system, so we can get help to children before it is too late.

We have a special obligation to disadvantaged children to close the achievement gap in our Nation. In my next budget, I will propose an increase of \$1 billion for the Federal program that aids disadvantaged schoolchildren. That's on top of the 18 percent increase in last year's budget. In fact, Federal spending on Title I will increase just about as much in the first 2 years of my administration as it did in all the previous 8 years combined. I hope Congress will approve this request.

At the same time as we fund Title I, we're giving extra help to children with special needs. The Federal program for special needs children was established by the law known as IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My 2003 budget requests an additional \$1 billion for IDEA, as well, an important increase. But we want these new dollars to carry to special education the same spirit of reform and account-

ability we have brought to other education programs.

This reform effort began Tuesday, when Education Secretary Rod Paige convened the first meeting of the new Presidential Commission on Excellence in Special Education. This distinguished and diverse group, chaired by former Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, has a clear mission, to propose reforms that will make special education an integral part of an education system that expects all children to reach their full potential.

We must have high expectations for children who are more difficult to teach or who have fallen behind. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would accept no less than an equal concern for every child in America, and neither will my administration.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:32 p.m. on January 18 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 19. In his remarks, the President referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10); and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 94-142). The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Celebration

January 21, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for coming. Mrs. King, thanks for this beautiful portrait. I can't wait to hang it. *[Laughter]*

I want to welcome you all to the White House. We've gathered in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the ideals he held and the life he lived. We remember a man who brought much good into the world by the power of his voice and the truth of his words.

For some of you here this afternoon, Dr. King was and is a special part of your life as a colleague and a friend and a brother. Four call him "Dad," and we are pleased that two of his children are here with us today.

We welcome Bernice and Martin Luther King III. I know your dad would be incredibly proud of you. I also welcome Christine King Farris, Dr. King's sister. Alveda King, Isaac Farris, Jr., Arthur Bagley, and Arturo Bagley, family members, are here as well. Thank you all for coming. And of course, we're honored to be in the presence of such a distinguished and delightful lady, Coretta Scott King.

I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige for being here. In honor of Dr. King, the Department of Education will soon announce the Martin Luther King, Jr., scholars program to promising students all across America.

I appreciate all the members of my team who are here, in particular, Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser. Thank you for coming, Condi. It's good to see the Mayor. Mr. Mayor and the first lady, Diane, are with us today. Thank you all for coming. The Mayor is a good man. I can assure you, Mr. Mayor, we paid our property taxes. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so many members of the diplomatic corps for being here. Ambassadors from all across the world are here to say hello to Mrs. King and her family. And thank you all for coming to pay honor to such a great American. Thank you very much.

On a summer night in 1964, right here in the East Room, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and handed a pen to Martin Luther King, Jr. The law marked a true turning point in the life of our country. As Dr. King put it, "The Civil Rights Act was the end of a century of slumber." More laws would be needed, and more would follow. But on that day, our Federal Government accepted the duty of securing freedom and justice for every American.

Standing in the White House, marking a national holiday in Dr. King's memory, we are now two generations and a world away from Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, as he knew them. It would be easy to forget the great obstacles he overcame and the years of effort and the daily courage that turned a cause into a movement. Perhaps without Martin Luther King, there might still have been a Civil Rights Act. There's no doubting that the law came as it did, when it did, because of him.

Yet, he was not one to claim credit for himself. The civil rights law, he said, was first written in the streets by many thousands of black citizens and others who shared their goals. Their movement rose from generations of bitter experience, the slights, the cruelties, the pervasive wrongs that marked the lives of many black Americans.

As a small boy, Martin had seen his father, a gifted and learned man, retain great dignity while being insulted, ordered about, and spoken down to. "I don't care how long I have to live with this system," said Martin Luther King, Sr., "I will never accept it." The son would not accept it either. Years afterwards, he related the story of going to the back of the bus, day after day, putting his mind up in the front seat. He told himself, "One of these days I'm going to put my body where my mind is."

In time, he did so, as did others, some of whose names are also honored in our history. Along the way, he was beaten and stabbed, jailed, and came close to losing his wife and baby daughter when their house was bombed. At a certain point, even a strong man might have yielded. Dr. King never did, and he never gave up on his country. He believed that whatever one would change, one must first love—and he loved America.

His most powerful arguments were unanswerable, for they were the very words and principles of our Declaration and Constitution. When he came to this Capital City and stood before the figure of the Great Emancipator, it was not to assail or threaten. He had come to hold this Nation to its own standards, to live out the true meaning of its creed.

We see Martin Luther King in many ways. Perhaps, above all, we should see him as a minister of the gospel. He said, "I decided early to give my life to something eternal and absolute, not to these little gods that are here today and gone tomorrow but to God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

That faith gave Dr. King the grace to forgive and the strength to love. He refused to answer hatred with hatred or meet violence with violence. He appealed not to resentment but to reason, not to anger but to conscience. He was on this Earth just 39 years. On the last night of his life, he did seem

to sense that grave danger was lying in wait. But he trusted in the ways of providence, not fearing any man, certain that no man could ever finally prevent the purposes of Almighty God.

"Here on all the roads of life," said Dr. King in a sermon, "God is striving in our striving. As we struggle to defeat the forces of evil, the God of the universe struggles with us. Evil dies on the seashore, not merely because of man's endless struggle against it but because of God's power to defeat it." Martin Luther King, Jr., lived in that belief and died in that belief.

Some figures in history, renowned in their day, grow smaller with the passing of time. The man from Atlanta, Georgia, only grows larger with the years. America is a better place because he was here, and we will honor his name forever.

It is now my honor to sign the proclamation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and their children Bernice King and Martin Luther King III; Alveda King and Isaac Farris, Jr., niece and nephew of Dr. King; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of the District of Columbia and his wife, Diane.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Continued Operations of United States Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina

January 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of July 24, 2001, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, based upon information provided to me and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (P.L. 93-148), to help ensure that the Con-

gress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peace-keeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1357 of June 21, 2001. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize, and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 3,100 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 18 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 17,500 personnel. During the last half of 2001, 19 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered in the city of Tuzla. Other U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of SFOR. These deployments include approximately 50 U.S. military personnel presently deployed to Hungary and Croatia in order to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives,